



DuPont-Whitehouse House

3558 S. Artesian Avenue

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CITY OF CHICAGO
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
J.F. Boyle, Jr., Commissioner

DUPONT-WHITEHOUSE HOUSE

3558 S. Artesian Ave.

(1875-76; Oscar Cobb & Company, architect)

The Italianate-style DUPONT-WHITEHOUSE HOUSE dates to the early history of the southwest side community of Brighton Park. It was built in 1875-76 by the DuPont explosives company for Junot Whitehouse, the superintendent of its gunpowder plant. It was later the home of developer Joseph McCaffery, the so-called "Father of Brighton Park."

In 1920, the brick structure was moved from 36th Street and Western Avenue to its present location. This house stands as a singular reminder of the community's beginnings.

Significant Features: The designation specifies "all aspects of the...house, including but not limited to its plan, materials, and architectural detailing."

Recommended to City Council: August 29, 1989

Ward: 12 (Alderman Frias)

Ownership: It is owned by a private individual, who did not respond to the request for consent.

DUPONT-WHITEHOUSE HOUSE
3558 South Artesian Avenue

Date: 1875-76

Architect: Oscar Cobb & Company

The DuPont-Whitehouse House is the “house that gunpowder built,” having been originally erected in 1875-76 by the Wilmington, Delaware explosives firm of E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company, and occupied by the firm’s local agent, Junot J. Whitehouse. Standing out among the modest low-rise dwellings of the Southwest Side community of Brighton Park, the imposing size and late nineteenth century grandeur of the DuPont-Whitehouse House has made it a familiar and treasured landmark of its neighborhood. Its significance goes beyond picturesque familiarity, as the history of the house and its occupants are inseparably intertwined with the history of Brighton Park, from its beginnings as an independent industrial town in the mid-nineteenth century through the complex changes it underwent following its annexation to the City of Chicago in 1889.

The Early Years of Brighton Park

The land that now constitutes the community of Brighton Park was originally platted and subdivided in the 1830s and 1840s in anticipation of the construction and opening of the adjacent Illinois and Michigan Canal, a major project to create a canal linking the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River for water-borne commerce. While the canal was completed in 1848, major development of the Brighton area did not occur until the early 1850s when a group of private investors, principally from Chicago, purchased a majority of the land and commenced to make public improvements intended to transform the area into a center for the livestock trade, taking advantage of its location at the intersection of Blue Island Avenue (now Western Avenue) and Archer Avenue, both of which were major roads used by outlying farmers to transport livestock into the city of Chicago, nine miles to the northeast.

Among the principal improvements was the reconstruction of Blue Island Plank Road as a well-maintained highway, and the construction of a stockyards and hotel near the intersection of Archer Avenue and the Blue Island Plank Road. Formally incorporated as an independent town in 1851, the name "Brighton" reflected the town's investors interest in cultivating the livestock trades, the name being associated with the great livestock markets of London, as well as being the name of contemporary commercial trade markets in Boston, Cincinnati, and other cities. Despite the construction of the Brighton stockyards and other related improvements, expectations for a prosperous livestock market proved to be disappointing due to the establishment of competing stockyards and markets in areas with more convenient ground and rail access, and the consolidation of local livestock markets in Chicago with the founding of the Union Stockyards in 1864.

Despite the virtual collapse of Brighton's livestock industry, the town grew and prospered with the establishment of diverse manufacturing industries, including the Northwestern Horse Shoe Company, established in 1864, the Brighton Cotton Mill (1871), the Brighton Silver and Smelting Company (1873), and the Chicago and Alton Railroad roundhouse and repair shops (1875). The proliferation of manufacturing facilities within the town was reflected in the designation of the local post office as "Factoryville" in 1873, a name that was subsequently changed to the more familiar "Brighton Park" after it was discovered that another Illinois town had claim to the "Factoryville" name.

As the City of Chicago continued to grow and began to approach the borders of Brighton Park, Brighton Park and neighboring areas were considered for annexation to the city. The matter was put to a vote in 1869, with the majority of the neighboring areas agreeing to annexation and the town of Brighton Park rejecting the proposal, preferring to maintain its identity as an independent municipality. Brighton Park maintained its autonomy until 1889 when its residents finally voted in favor of annexation.

E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company and the Brighton Park Explosives Industry

Beginning in the 1860s, a considerable amount of Brighton Park industrial land was acquired by out-of-state explosives manufacturers for the purpose of erecting sturdy, reinforced masonry magazines for the storage of gunpowder and explosives. Most of these companies had established sales offices in downtown Chicago, but they were prohibited by law from the transportation and storage of explosive materials within the city limits. The close proximity of Brighton Park to Chicago and the lack of restrictions governing the storage of explosives resulted in a proliferation of storage magazines within the town, and soon explosives constituted one of the town's largest industries.

Among the firms that erected powder magazines during this period was the Wilmington, Delaware firm of E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company, one of the country's oldest and largest manufacturers of explosives, having been founded in 1801 by French explosives expert E. I. DuPont de Nemours and his brother Victor who immigrated to the United States following the French Revolution. By the 1860s, the firm was in the control of

E. I. DuPont de Nemours' son Henry DuPont who sought to expand the firm's markets in the Midwest and West by the establishment of a Chicago sales agency. In 1864 and 1866, Henry DuPont purchased land in the vicinity of 36th Street and Western Avenue in Brighton Park for the erection of powder magazines, and subsequently the company established a downtown Chicago sales office under the direction of agent C. D. Austin.

In 1871, the management of the office was taken over by Junot J. Whitehouse, a native of New York State, whose previous business career had included several ventures in the wholesale clothing business and a brief period as an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company. Whitehouse's responsibilities for the DuPont Company included management of the Chicago office and Brighton Park storage magazines, in addition to supervising the expansion of markets in the Midwest and West through the establishment of sales agencies and powder storage magazines in different areas of the country.

At the time the DuPont Company bought the property on Western Avenue, the land and surrounding area offered little development potential for uses other than industrial or low-cost housing purposes, but its character changed dramatically in the following decade with the conversion of Western Avenue into a broad 250-foot-wide, landscaped boulevard by the South Park Commission of the City of Chicago. The construction of the boulevard was part of a comprehensive system of ornamental boulevards that were erected by Chicago's public parks systems to interconnect the principal parks of the city, the Western Avenue improvement being the link between the parks of the west and south sides of the city. At the time of the conversion of Western Avenue in 1875, the thoroughfare constituted the border between the municipalities of Brighton Park and Chicago, consequently DuPont's Brighton Park magazine sites gained the benefit of having desirable frontage along the boulevard despite the fact that Brighton Park was not yet a part of Chicago.

Construction of the DuPont-Whitehouse House

Because of the desirability of sites fronting on the landscaped boulevards, Junot J. Whitehouse proposed to the DuPont main office in Wilmington that one of the magazine sites along Western Avenue be improved with a first-class residence, appropriate to the increased value of the land, which upon completion would be occupied by Whitehouse himself. This idea was first suggested to Whitehouse by pioneer Brighton Park settler and businessman John McCaffery who participated in the original development of the town and its industries. Following McCaffery's advice, Whitehouse proposed the idea to the DuPont Company in a letter written on October 1, 1875, which, along with several other letters that document the planning and construction of the house, is preserved in the archives of the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware. In his initial proposal Whitehouse wrote:

John McCaffery says, 'As soon as the improvements are made your land is worth \$100 per foot' - The Boulevard is to be 250 feet wide - Was there a small house, that would cost say three or four thousand dollars built on

the corner of this Boulevard and Boardman Street it would not only make a pleasant place for your Agent to live, but he would be where your entire property connected with the powder business here would be daily under his eye and I would be willing to pay six percent interest and taxes on the improvements as spent.

The response of the DuPont main office was apparently favorable, as by November 16, 1875, Whitehouse wrote back to Wilmington that plans and specifications for the proposed house had been prepared, suggesting that the house would be sited on a one-acre lot owned by DuPont on Western Avenue immediately south of 36th Street. Whitehouse also wrote that preliminary estimates for the house far exceeded the \$4,500 cost specified by the DuPont main office, but he gave a strong argument for the increased cost:

I have had a few estimates for the building made, and now fear that it will be impossible to complete the building according to the plans and specifications for less than \$6,000. The plan now calls for a house 38 x 38 outside - In the first plans we had an extension 16 x 20 feet for a kitchen that we have struck off and placed the kitchen in the square part back of the parlor. We have made this change in order to reduce the price of construction and it does not injure the general plan of the house but very little but still it will cost more than the sum named in your favor of the 6th of October, \$4,500. The lowest bid is yet \$5,900. There are two or three other builders now figuring but I fear that we shall not be able to reduce it very much. The plans can be changed so as to build a house for \$3,000 to \$4,500. - But the one we would have would be an honor to your property and give character to the whole neighborhood.

On November 21, 1875, Junot J. Whitehouse entered into a contract with builders John B. Lanyon and George Boylan to erect the proposed house according to plans and specifications prepared by Chicago architect Oscar Cobb. The house was to be centered on the DuPont's one-acre site at 3616 South Western Avenue and was projected to cost \$6,000. Construction was started almost immediately, and due to a mild winter, the house was nearly enclosed by March of the following year. On June 1, 1876, Whitehouse wrote to the DuPont office in Wilmington:

The new house is about nearly completed and all say it is a good job. . . . Have graded up around the new house and planted several small trees and lots of shrubbery - the last two at no cost to you. I am certain you would be pleased with the whole improvement if you could see it. It is a beautiful residence.

By the end of June, Junot Whitehouse and his wife May had moved into the completed house. Its quality was not only satisfactory to Whitehouse but was apparently also looked on favorably by John McCaffery. On June 21, Whitehouse wrote to Wilmington:

Have been busy moving into the new house the last few days and hope to get settled in a day or two more. All who have seen the house pronounce it a first class job. John McCaffery says he never has seen as good a house built for the money. He and Thomas Kelly, his son-in-law, are both very much pleased with the improvements. They brought from their farm and set out ten evergreen trees on the lot free of charge. . . . I have taken the liberty to build a small building on the rear of the lot for the purposes of a water closet, hen house, dog house and are to cost \$88. - if not satisfactory I will pay it.

Dramatically sited at the center of a landscaped one-acre site bordered by a wood picket fence, the imposing red brick house erected by DuPont and Whitehouse represented one of the largest and costliest private residential improvements to be erected along the newly completed boulevard, as well as in the town of Brighton Park itself. Its grandeur may also have presented something of an anomaly, as much of the surrounding property was still occupied by small workers' cottages and industrial properties, including E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company's three-acre site containing powder magazines and a livery stable, located immediately across 36th Street to the north, discreetly camouflaged from view by a board fence. Although two other large brick dwellings were later erected on Western Avenue following the example of the DuPont-Whitehouse House, the area never fully developed into the exclusive residential district envisioned by Whitehouse and McCaffery.

The architectural composition of the DuPont-Whitehouse House is an excellent example of a simplified variation of the Italianate style which was extremely popular for commercial and residential architecture in the mid-nineteenth century. Abstracted from rural northern Italian architecture, the style gained great popularity in England in the 1830s and proliferated in the United States through the work of architect Alexander Jackson Davis and the widely circulated architectural manuals written by Andrew Jackson Downing. The style was extensively abstracted and copied by architects from the 1850s through the 1870s, the DuPont-Whitehouse House having been designed in the waning years of the popularity of the style.

Faced with reddish-orange brick on all elevations, the exterior masonry shell of the DuPont-Whitehouse House has the appearance of a monolithic cube, punctured by tall narrow window openings detailed with decorative incised sandstone lintels and plain sills. The principal street facade is symmetrically arranged about a slightly projecting central entrance pavilion that extends the full height of the facade, terminating in a low brick pediment. Projecting pavilions of this type were a common element in Italianate design, emphasizing the central entrance and creating a formal, symmetrical composition for the main elevation. The severity of the exterior masonry is softened by raised borders of ornamental brickwork that created a subtle enframing of the different wall planes through an inexpensive yet visually effective means. Also characteristic of Italianate design is the termination of the main body of the house with a decorative bracketed wood cornice carrying a broad-eaved, low hipped roof and culminating in a decorative wood base for an open-railed gallery at the apex.

Typical of the period, the interior plan was formally arranged with all rooms opening off a central stair hall extending laterally through the house. The first floor was planned with twin front parlors, each furnished with identical marble-fronted fireplaces and carved overmantels. A large dining room, which could be closed off by sliding doors, was located immediately behind the south parlor. The kitchen was located at the rear of the north parlor, a revision from the original plans which called for its location in a separate one-story wing at the rear. Woodwork consisted mostly of milled, high-relief baseboards, door and window trim, the most detailed treatment being given to carved overmantels and the main staircase. The principal rooms had large plaster medallions centered in the ceiling, from which depended gas lighting fixtures. The second floor was planned with four bedrooms. Although minor alterations have been made over the years, the plan and interior features of the house remain largely intact, providing an excellent example of a large house of the period.

The Architects: Oscar Cobb & Company

The DuPont-Whitehouse House is one of the earliest documented designs by Chicago architect Oscar Cobb (1842-1908), whose subsequent practice assumed nationwide proportions due his expertise and specialization in the design of theaters and public halls. A native of Maine, Cobb's early vocational interests were many and varied, including the carpentry trade, law, and theological studies. At the age of twenty, Cobb turned his attention to the study of architecture, gaining practical experience in the offices of several architectural firms throughout the Midwest. Cobb permanently settled in Chicago in 1867, continuing his architectural career in the employment of various architectural offices. Following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, Cobb reputedly designed the seven-story Major Block at the southeast corner of LaSalle and Madison streets under the auspices of the architectural office of Dixon & Hamilton. He is also known to have worked in the office of architect Gurdon P. Randall, whose expertise in the design of churches and public buildings may have influenced Cobb's later interest in designing public assembly buildings.

By 1873, Cobb had entered into a short-lived partnership with architect O. G. Smith under the name of Smith & Cobb, but the association was dissolved within a year. Thereafter, Cobb formed the firm of Oscar Cobb & Company, his junior partner being architect Minard L. Beers (1847-1918), whom Cobb later took into full partnership under the name of Cobb & Beers. The commission for the DuPont-Whitehouse House was undertaken in late 1875 under the auspices of Oscar Cobb & Company, but it is not known how the firm was selected nor the extent of the individual roles of Cobb and Beers in the design.

The firm of Cobb and Beers was dissolved by 1878, both partners forming practices of their own. Minard L. Beers' subsequent career included partnership in the prosperous Chicago architectural firm of Beers, Clay & Dutton between 1888 and 1895, a firm best known for the design of private residences. He later practiced in partnership with his son Herbert under the name of Beers & Beers, a firm that continued until Minard L. Beers' death in 1918.

Oscar Cobb's independent architectural practice encompassed the usual variety of residential and commercial commissions, but his greatest success and professional reputation were based on his expertise in the planning and design of theaters and public assembly buildings. Throughout the late nineteenth century, Cobb's office was largely occupied with commissions in small towns across the country for small theaters, usually built in combination with commercial rental space. The demand for buildings of this type was so great that by 1888, Cobb was able to claim that there was hardly a state or territory in the United States in which he had not designed a building. Like his former partner Minard L. Beers, Cobb took his son William into partnership in 1892, forming the firm of Oscar Cobb & Son, and continued to practice under this name until his death in 1908.

Subsequent Owners of the DuPont-Whitehouse House

Evidence indicates that by 1882 Junot J. Whitehouse had died, as his name disappears from subsequent editions of the Chicago City Directory, and he was succeeded as DuPont agent by Charles M. Funk. Further evidence of Whitehouse's death is indicated in a letter from Funk to the DuPont Wilmington office written on July 31, 1882:

Mrs. J. J. Whitehouse is moving into town today and the keys have been handed to Mr. Henry Waller. Key to the back door our Driver Mr. Bloomer keeps to look after the house until it is rented.

Instead of renting the house, E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Company sold the house and grounds on Western Avenue late in 1882 to Chicago paving contractor John Dolese who occupied it as his private residence. While the DuPont Company sold the house and grounds, it still retained its powder magazines and other industrial properties in Brighton Park. By the 1880s, DuPont and other explosives manufacturers who had magazines in Brighton Park had purchased land in the outlying location of 47th Street and Archer Avenue and built new magazines there, removing the dangerous facilities from within the residential and industrial portions of the town.

Brighton Park's association with the explosives industry came to a violent close on August 29, 1886 when lightning struck the magazine of the Laflin & Rand Company, resulting in a terrific explosion that heavily damaged property in Brighton Park and surrounding areas. The force of the explosion was so great that its shock waves shattered windows in downtown Chicago seven miles to the northeast and stopped the clock on the tower of the Board of Trade Building with its force. Although the explosives manufacturers sought to rebuild their destroyed and damaged facilities, pressure from citizens and property owners eventually effected the magazines' removal, most of them relocating in the far southwestern suburb of Blue Island.

The construction of the boulevard system in Chicago, which provided the incentive for the original construction of the DuPont-Whitehouse House in 1875-76, also was a major factor in generating the personal fortunes of the house's second owner, John

Dolese. As founder and partner of the street-paving firm of Dolese & Shepard, Dolese was responsible for most of the construction of the roadways in the boulevard project, including the portion fronting the DuPont-Whitehouse House. Born in Chicago in 1839, Dolese's family originally came from France and was engaged in the wholesale liquor business. In 1868, John Dolese formed a business association with Jason H. Shepard in the founding of a street paving business under the name of Dolese & Company. In association with Brighton Park pioneer John McCaffery, the firm was reorganized as Dolese & Shepard, and aggressively pursued contracts for the paving of the boulevards and the public ways in the jurisdiction of the South Parks Commission. The firm was responsible for many of the major paving projects for the city and surrounding suburbs, employing in excess of three hundred employees for the execution of its numerous contracts for gravel and macadam pavement construction and improvements.

In November, 1882, John Dolese purchased the DuPont-Whitehouse House from the DuPont Company for \$9,000. While Junot J. Whitehouse and his wife had no children, John Dolese, his wife Katherine, and their nine children made full use of the four-bedroom house.

The family of John Dolese occupied the house for less than eight years, selling the house and grounds to Thomas Kelly, their neighbor immediately south. Kelly, a Brighton Park contractor specializing in the construction of sewers and waterworks, was the son-in-law of John McCaffery. A resident of Brighton Park since 1864, Kelly was initially engaged in the grocery business and was subsequently involved with several of McCaffery's numerous business ventures, including the paving firm of Dolese & Shepard and the McCaffery-owned Brighton Cotton Mills. Kelly apparently bought the house as a residence for his elderly father-in-law. It had been McCaffery's suggestion to Junot Whitehouse that the DuPont Company erect the house in 1875, and at the age of eighty, McCaffery himself came to occupy it.

Born in Ireland in 1808, John McCaffery was one of the earliest developers of Brighton Park, known within his own lifetime as the "Father of Brighton Park." McCaffery was the owner of the town's first general store and was one of the original incorporators of Brighton as an independent town in 1852. He was also one of the original investors and builders of the Blue Island Plank Road and subsequently became one of the town's largest landholders by buying out the holdings of many of the town's original investors. Undaunted by the failure of the town's livestock industry, McCaffery actively promoted the establishment of new manufacturing industries to take their place. McCaffery himself was an investor in many of Brighton Park's early manufacturing industries, the largest of which was the Brighton Cotton Mills, which he placed under the management of his son-in-law, Thomas Kelly. McCaffery and Kelly also jointly operated a general contracting business, erecting many of the buildings and public improvements in the Brighton Park area.

On July 1, 1894, John McCaffery died at the age of eighty-six. In his will, he specified that the house be held in trust until the twenty-first birthday of his son John C. McCaffery Jr. who was born to McCaffery's second wife in 1884. John McCaffery Jr. continued

to occupy the house with his mother. His later career was principally oriented around the carnival and entertainment business. Securing ownership of the house in 1906, McCaffery rented it to attorney Edward R. Litzinger (1874-1956) whose political aspirations had resulted in his election as Alderman of the Fifth Ward from 1901 to 1903, and later he was elected to numerous other political positions. The Litzinger family occupied the house until 1910.

In 1913, John McCaffery Jr. sold the house to Emil Klank (1871-1940) who achieved fame in Chicago as a manager and promoter of professional wrestling. Emil Klank was one of four children born to Charles and Joanna Klank who emigrated from Germany in 1868, and eventually settled in Chicago where the elder Klank was employed as a brickmaker in Chicago's once-extensive brickmaking industry. Like many German immigrants of the period, Charles Klank moved to the Brighton Park area in the late 1890s and occupied a frame house at 3414 South Western Avenue, two blocks north of the DuPont-Whitehouse House. Three of Charles Klank's children became involved in professional sports, Emil and Theodore as wrestlers and Herman as a boxer. Emil Klank later became one of the city's premier wrestling managers.

At the time Emil Klank and his wife lived in the house, the industrial usage of adjoining properties continued to increase, a reversal from Junot Whitehouse and John McCaffery's vision in the 1870s of Western Avenue being transformed into a fashionable residential boulevard. The site of the DuPont-Whitehouse House was especially desirable due to its location at the intersection of two railroad lines located immediately to the south and west.

By the second decade of the twentieth century, much of the land surrounding the house had been acquired by Emil Popper, a South Side dealer in scrap metal, presumably with the intention of erecting a scrap facility there. In 1918, Popper entered into an agreement with Emil Klank granting him an option to purchase the property within a period of four years, an option that was fulfilled in 1920 when Klank conveyed the property to Popper for a sum of \$12,500. Before further action could be taken, Popper died, and the DuPont-Whitehouse land as well as the assembled adjoining properties were acquired by the wholesaling firm of Straus & Schram as a location for a freight depot.

Since the acquisition of the land called for the demolition of the house, Emil Klank made provisions for its relocation to another site, the northwest corner of Artesian Avenue and 36th Street, one block to the northwest. In preparation for the move, a new stone foundation for the house was erected on the site. According to neighborhood residents who witnessed the move, the house was placed on a temporary supporting grillage and lifted off its foundation. The grillage was attached to railroad wheels, and the entire building was rolled to the new site on a series of temporary railroad tracks.

In contrast to its former site where the house was centered on a one-acre plot of land, the new corner site of Artesian Avenue measured only 49 by 122 feet. A number of alterations, which appear to date from the time of the move, were probably carried out by

Emil Klank. The move probably necessitated the removal of the original entrance canopy over the front door, an element that was not rebuilt at the new site. Also removed during Klank's tenure was the original railing around the rooftop "widow's walk." Klank enlarged the dining room with the addition of a sheet-metal bay window on the south elevation and relocated the kitchen to a one-story wing extending from the back of the house, a feature originally proposed for the house in 1875 but deleted to reduce costs. On the interior, numerous alterations were made by the Klanks, none of which seriously compromised the original plan or detailing of the house. Doorways leading into the principal rooms of the first floor were modified by art-glass transoms with an abstract Arts and Crafts motif. The dining-room walls were altered by the insertion of wood framed plaster panels and a decorative plate rail. Parquet flooring was installed throughout the principal rooms.

After the death of Emil Klank in 1940, the house continued to be occupied by his widow until the early 1950s when it was sold. Since its ownership by the Klank family, the DuPont-Whitehouse House has changed hands three times. The building still remains largely as it appeared during the period when the Klanks lived there, retaining most of its original architectural features from 1875-76 and the minor modifications executed at the time of its relocation in 1920. The only major alteration since the Klanks occupancy was the coating of the original red brick and sandstone of the exterior with grey cement parging. While the general upkeep of the house was somewhat neglected in the years following its sale by the Klank family, the present owners of the property take great pride in its history and architectural distinction, and they are undertaking a restoration and rehabilitation of the building to insure its preservation.

The DuPont-Whitehouse House is a remarkable survivor of the changes in residential and industrial land use that Brighton Park has undergone since the original construction of the building over 110 years ago. Especially remarkable is its survival in almost original condition, offering the community and the city at large an unusual glimpse of Chicago's historical and architectural past.

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OPPOSITE:

A large percentage of the original interior detailing remains intact, including the main staircase in the central hallway.

(Tim Samuelson, photographer)



OPPOSITE:

The twin front parlors of the first floor each include incised marble fireplaces and plate glass mirrors with carved wood frames.

(Tim Samuelson, photographer)

Criteria for Designation

The following criteria, as set forth in Section 2-120-620 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago, were considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining that the DuPont-Whitehouse House should be recommended for landmark designation.

CRITERION 1

Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other aspect of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.

The DuPont-Whitehouse House is historically significant due to its relationship to the pioneering explosives firm of E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Company, and its association with the once-extensive explosives industry which was located in the Brighton Park area of Chicago. The building is also significant for its association with its third owner, John McCaffery, one of the pioneer settlers of Brighton Park.

CRITERION 4

Its exemplification of an architectural style or type distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship.

The DuPont-Whitehouse House is an important intact example of a large-scale, free-standing Italianate residence. The building is in a remarkable state of preservation, both on the exterior and the interior.

CRITERION 7

Its unique location or distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Chicago.

The large scale and distinctive architectural composition of the DuPont-Whitehouse House contrasts with the modest small-scale dwellings which surround it, making it a well-known and distinctive visual landmark of the Brighton Park neighborhood of Chicago.

Significant Historical and Architectural Features

Based on its evaluation of the DuPont-Whitehouse House, the staff recommends that the significant features be identified as all portions of the interior and exterior of the structure.

Acknowledgments

CITY OF CHICAGO

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The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose nine members are appointed by the Mayor, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. It is responsible for recommending to the City Council that individual buildings, sites, objects, or entire districts be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law. The Commission is staffed by the Chicago Department of Planning and Development, whose offices are located at 320 N. Clark St., Room 516, Chicago, IL 60610; Ph: 312-744-3200; TDD Ph: 744-2958.